

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD Statistics, Data and Digital Service

Data and digital capacity development in 2024

Trade and Development Board

Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme
Performance

26-28 January 2026



Statistics, Data and Digital Service ToR

1. Provide high-quality data and statistics and data-analysis on trade and development, develop new methods and statistics, build countries' capacity

- [UNCTAD Data Hub](#) - a repository of key statistics, news, country profiles
- Annual [Handbook of Statistics](#) with its online version [Data Insights](#)
- Monitoring of progress towards the 2030 Agenda in [SDG Pulse](#)
- Major efforts in new statistics, statistical methods and global compilation standards, Beyond GDP
- Global statistical capacity building efforts, SDG indicators & trade statistics

2. Support UNCTAD programmes in delivering mandates through data and digital products

- Provide UNCTAD staff with the technology required to fulfill UNCTAD mandates, making optimal use of IT services provided by the UN Secretariat, to maximize efficiency.
- Design, develop and host data and digital products for UNCTAD programs.
- Advance digital transformation through innovative technologies (AI, cloud and micro-service architectures, mobile) and improved data governance.

ToR will be further refined in a new Data and Digital Strategy for UNCTAD

E-learning in trade statistics

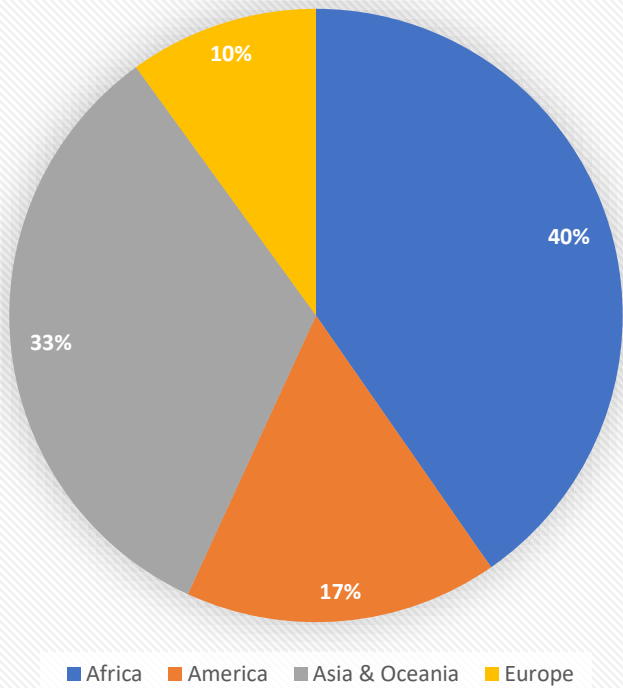
by UNCTAD Statistics with TrainForTrade, UNSD and WTO

Blended learning: online lectures in English and French, interactive forum, manual, quizzes, with a workshop or webinar.

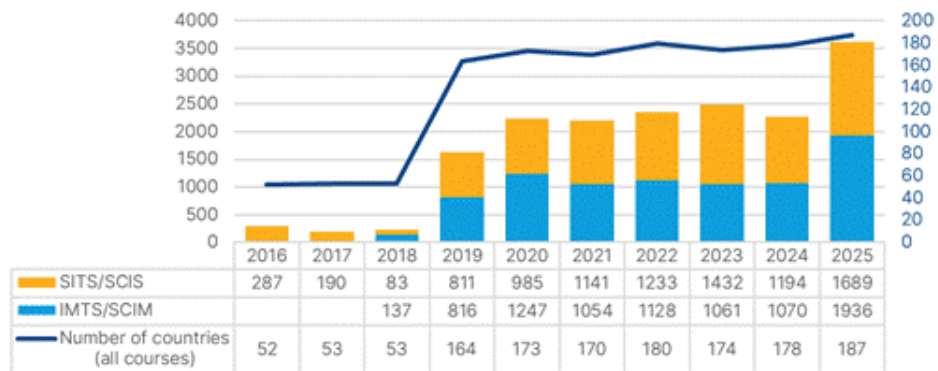
Global coverage with growing participation:

- **Over 17'532 trained from 218 countries** since 2016 with **2'264 people trained in 2024**, with nearly half women.
- Among top countries by participants: Philippines, Indonesia, India, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Ghana, etc...

6 weeks' training enhanced knowledge and skills to understand and compile trade statistics and to solve data challenges.



Trade statistics courses' number of participants and countries (2016-2025)



➤ Statistics on trade in services in high demand

Trade-in-Services Statistics Information System (TiSSTAT)

Programme designed to enhance national statistical capacities by providing a **comprehensive, modular system** for compiling high-quality trade in services statistics.



UNCTAD-UEMOA project to improve the quality of trade in services statistics (since 2013) through an **enterprise survey**

- Beneficiaries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo

Outputs:

- Training workshops
- Harmonized questionnaire
- Legal framework guidance
- TiSSTAT statistical information system

In 2024, refined TiSSTAT based on feedback and planned services trade surveys



➤ Statistics on trade in services /2

UNDA16 project, 2024-2027: Strengthening trade-in-services capacity in the Eastern Caribbean

- Beneficiaries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Statistics and DITC with ECLAC and regional partners, collaboration in related projects with WTO

Achievements in 2024:

- **Launch at the Global Supply Chain Forum** in Barbados, May 2024
- **Stocktaking of services trade data and gaps**
- **Training on methods to measure services trade**



➤ Trusted SDG costing method



Building on SDG costing for the 2023 SDG Summit, as UNCTAD estimated how much developing countries need to spend to accelerate SDG achievement.

- **Launched a [website on SDG costing methods and results](#)** for:
 - Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution
 - Food systems
 - Education transformation
 - Social protection and decent jobs
 - Inclusive digitalization
- **Follow up work:** with UN Women on **achieving gender equality** and with UNICEF on **child-focused SDG targets**, from saving lives to improving health, education, protection, and climate resilience, while leveraging sectoral synergies

UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2026–2029



Survival & development

10 million child lives saved and at least 500 million children healthy, well-nourished and developmentally on track



Learning & skills

350 million more children and young people learning and skilled



Freedom from poverty

100 million fewer children in multidimensional poverty



Protection from violence

350 million children protected from violence



Climate, environment & disasters

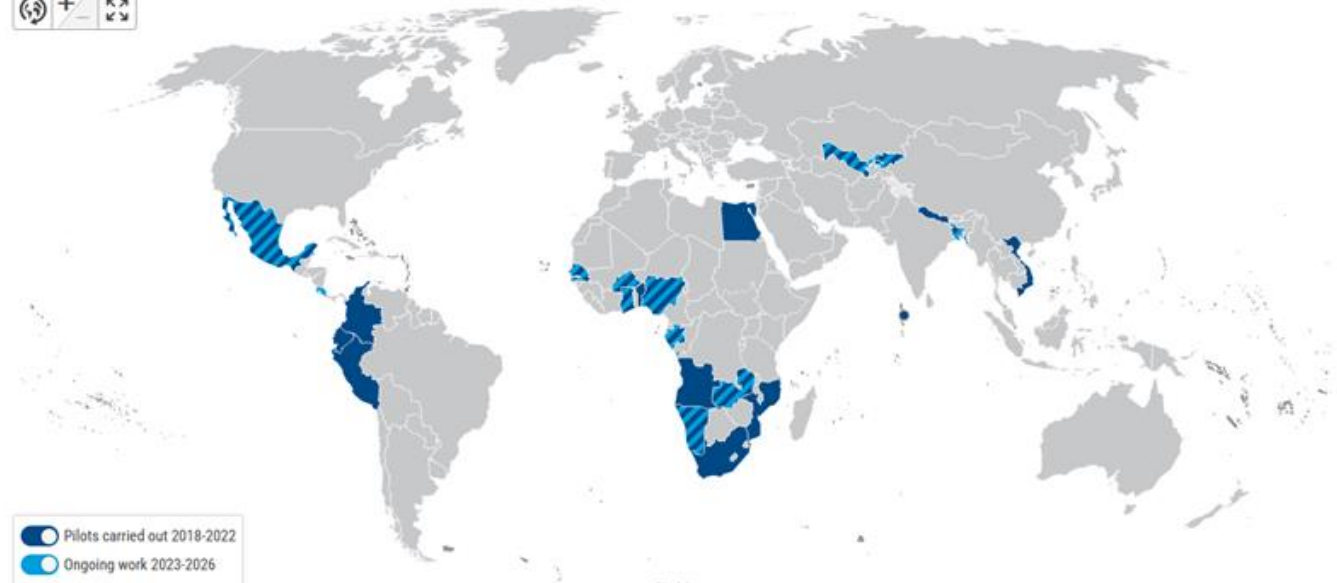
500 million children better protected from disasters, climate and environmental risks

➤ Illicit financial flows (IFFs) – SDG indicator

- UNCTAD **custodian of SDG indicator** 16.4.1 with UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Agreed [Conceptual Framework](#) and [Methodological Guidelines](#) **tested in pilots by 22 member States on 3 continents**, as reported in the [SDGPulse](#) -> first data available in the global SDG database.
- **Goal:** help track illicit financial flows to **strengthen domestic resource mobilization**
- **2 projects in 2024:** UNDA project with UNODC & Regional Commissions, an OSF-funded project with ALDC & 12 countries
- **IFFs from trade misinvoicing equal 5-30% of total goods trade**
- **40+ countries requesting support**
- **GA 2nd Committee asked UNCTAD to strengthen work to support all interested countries**



Map 1. 22 countries have studied the measurement of IFFs in 2018-2022 and 12 countries are doing so between 2023 and 2026



Source: UNCTAD and UNODC.

Note: Situation reflected on the map as of April 2025.

Disclaimer

➤ South-South Cooperation – SDG indicator

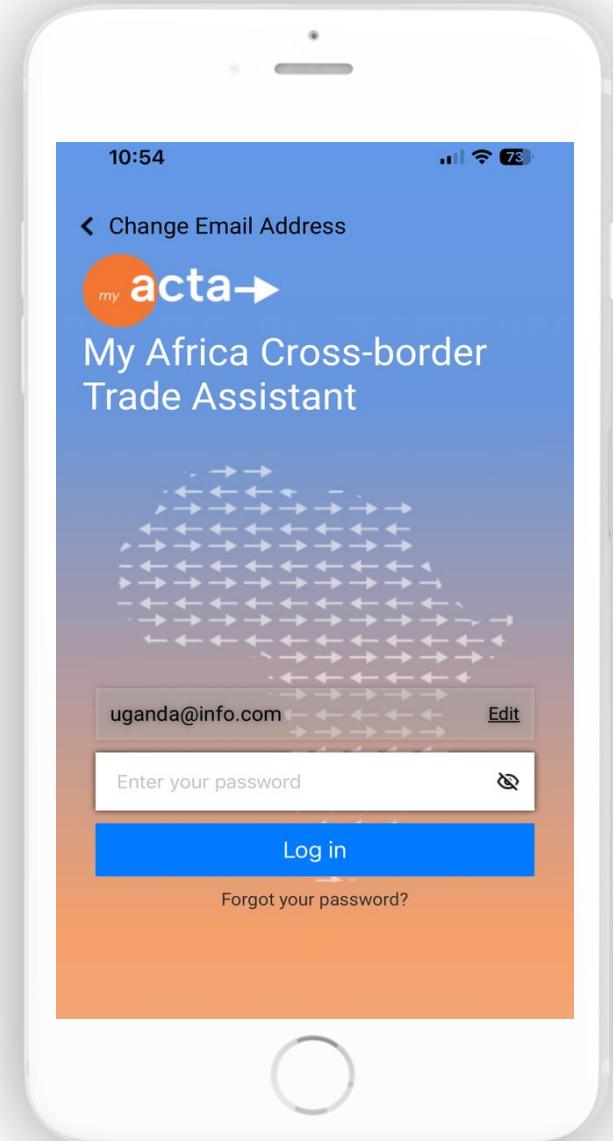
- UNCTAD custodian of SDG indicator 17.3.1 to report data on South-South cooperation. OECD's TOSSD the custodian for data on North-South flows.
- *Voluntary **Framework to measure South-South cooperation***, developed by the global South, adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2022
- **Goal:** enable **first-ever globally inclusive information** on development support by having data, owned and reported by the South in their own Framework.
- UNDA project on measurement of [South-South cooperation](#) for SDGs with UNSD, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, 2023-2026, **developed in 2024:**
 - **Discussed, now released [Manual](#) to measure SSC** (English, Spanish, Arabic)
 - **Developed e-learning materials and online data collection tool**, launch in 2026
- **GA 2nd Committee asked UNCTAD to strengthen work to support all interested countries**
- **Early data from six pilot countries show: in-kind support is essential**, often targeting gaps in health, education, partnerships, peace and institutions and hunger.
- In 2026, **first reporting of South-South data** and **new Data Insights** expected

➤ New projects launched or planned

- UNDA17 project, 2025-2028, **Evidence-based climate action through AI and data innovation in the Caribbean**, with DTL, DITC and UNDESA, in cooperation with UNEP, CARICOM, ECLAC and IMO.
- UNDA18 project, 2026-2029: **Better statistics on digital services trade for gender-responsive trade policy** to enhance TiSSTAT with DTL and ESCAP. Consulting with Bhutan, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Papua new Guinea and Viet Nam
- UNDA19 project, 2027-2030 on **Resilient, future-ready and integrated policy frameworks for sustainable development-aligned financing in Africa and Asia**, with ECA and ESCAP to help countries develop their own development focused budgeting and data.
- Sevilla FfD4 SPA: **Community of practice to track the hidden: Leveraging data and technology to combat IFFs** (with UNODC, Africa-Europe Foundation, African Union Development Agency)
- Sevilla FfD4 SPA: **Community of practice to leverage South-South Data: solidarity at the core of sustainable development** (with UN Regional Commissions)

➤ Emerging: digital transformation projects

- With DITC: data collection and management for **non-tariff measure data** (AI-supported knowledge extraction and integration with Pacific islands Trade Portals under the IMPACT project).
- With DTL: data collection tool for **official statistics on ICT use** by Enterprises and on the ICT Sector.
- With ALDC: **mobile app** supporting national statistical offices in collecting **informal cross-border trade** data in African countries.
- With DIAE: AI-supported learning assistant for **International Investment Agreements**.
- With DTL and DITC: Python notebooks for the UN Global Platform to **estimate GHG emissions from maritime activity** with satellite data.
- Opensource package for **AI-powered nowcasting** of economic data
- TiSSAT **software for of trade-in-services** data collection & demo.



➤ Call for partners to close data divides

- UNCTAD is increasingly asked for support to build better statistical, data and digital skills and solutions.
- Demand for support to measure **illicit financial flows (40 countries)** and **South-South cooperation (66 countries)** remains very high and progress in pilots very promising.
 - The new service aims to develop digital solutions to track illicit finance in Customs systems, and to collect South-South data from across agencies.
- Seeking funding to **help countries develop SDG-aligned budgeting expanding SDG costing initiative**, including for gender equality measures.
- **UNCTAD Trust Fund for trade-in-services statistics** as over 40 member states seek support for trade in services statistics: Asia-Pacific, SADC, Mexico, GCC, Caricom



SADEC
*Southern African
Development
Community*



GCC
Gulf Cooperation council



Asia and Pacific
With the Pacific Community

TiSSTAT adoption faces funding shortages, technical barriers and lack of staff time.

Thank you

